GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2331
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2000
INADEQUATE SRTORAGE FACILITY
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the losses of foodgrains due to inadequate storage facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to reduce wastage of foodgrains due to lack of storages;

(d) whether the Union Government have a plan to extend 25% subsidy for construction of new godowns; and

(e) if so, the details of this proposals?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN)

(a) No, Sir.

Adequate storage capacity exists with the Food Corporation of India (FCI), the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), the State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) and other State agencies for storage of foodgrains.Besides, the field officers of FCI have been delegated full powers to hire additional storage capacity as and when necessary.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government is in the process of formulating a National Policy on Handling, Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains in bulk which would reduce storage and transit losses of foodgrains.

(d) & (e) : There is a continuing centrally sponsored scheme for constuction of small godowns upto the capcity of 2000 MT to strengthen the PDS. Under the scheme, financial assistance to the States and UTs is provided for creation of storage capacity especially in the remote, inaccessible, hilly and disadvantaged areas. The pattern of assistance is 50% loan and 50% subsidy to meet the cost of construction on project basis. However in case of UTs without legislature, the entire amount of assistance is in the form of subsidy.